

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0017] beginning on page 5, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- The torque converter 1 chiefly has a flexible plate 4 and a torque converter main body 5. The flexible plate 4 is a thin, circular disc-shaped member that serves to transmit torque and also to absorb bending vibrations transmitted to the torque converter main body 5 from the crankshaft 2. The torque converter main body 5 has a torus-shaped fluid operating chamber 6 made up of three bladed wheels (an impeller 21, a turbine 22, and a stator 23) and a lockup device 7. The front cover 11 is a circular disc-shaped member arranged closely adjacent to the flexible plate 4. A center boss 16 is fixed by welding to the inner circumferential edge of the front cover 11. The center boss 16 is a cylindrical member extending in the axial direction and is inserted into a center hole of the crankshaft 2. The inner circumferential part of the flexible plate 4 is fixed with a plurality of bolts 13 to the tip surface of the crankshaft 2. A plurality of nuts 12 arranged with equal spacing in a circumferential direction ~~are~~ is fixed to the engine side of an outer circumferential part of the front cover 11. Bolts 14 that mate with the nuts 12 fasten an outer circumferential part of the flexible plate 4 to the front cover 11. --